

# NOTES AND MEMORANDA

## Members' Meetings

TUESDAY, January 18th, 1938, at 5.15 p.m. "The Population Problems in the British Commonwealth." *Speaker*: G. F. McCleary, M.D., D.P.H. *Chairman*: The Lord Horder, K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.

Wednesday, February 16th, at 7.45 p.m., at the Waldorf Hotel. The Galton Dinner and Lecture, "Medicine and Eugenics." *Speaker*: Professor John A. Ryle, M.D., F.R.C.P. *Chairman*: The Lord Horder, K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.

Tuesday, March 22nd, at 5.15 p.m. "Modern Developments in Mental Welfare Work." *Speaker*: Miss Evelyn Fox, C.B.E. *Chairman*: The Lord Horder, K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.

Tuesday, May 24th, at 4 p.m. Annual General Meeting. At 5.15 p.m., "Population Policies in Scandinavia and Elsewhere." *Speaker*: D. V. Glass, B.Sc.(Econ.). *Chairman*: The Lord Horder, K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.

Tuesday, June 14th, at 5.15 p.m. "The Cost of Education and its Relation to the Size of the Family." *Speaker*: Miss Grace G. Leybourne, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D. *Chairman*: The Lord Horder, K.C.V.O., M.D., F.R.C.P.

With the exception of the Galton Dinner and Lecture on February 16th, all the meetings will take place in the rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1. Tea will be served at 4.45 p.m. The dates of these meetings are subject to alteration.

## Elections to the Society

THE Eugenics Society of Victoria has been affiliated to the *Eugenics Society* and the following have been elected Fellows (starred) and Members of the *Society* during the past quarter:

\*Lady Clay  
\*Miss M. S. Crichton  
R. Y. Logan, Esq.

L. Namenyi, Esq.,  
M.D.  
\*E. R. Simpson, Esq.

## Nominations to the Council

FELLOWS are reminded that they have the right to nominate any Fellow of the *Society* to serve on the Council for the coming year. If they wish to exercise this right, they should apply to the office for a nomination paper which must be completed by them and lodged at the office before March 1st, 1938. Each Fellow is entitled to propose not more than two Fellows for election to vacancies on the Council, and to second two other Fellows. No Fellow shall be nominated unless he has consented, if elected, to act. Each nomination must be proposed and seconded respectively by a Fellow of the *Society*, and the nomination paper must be signed by such proposer and seconder.

C. P. BLACKER.

## Approved Contraceptives

FOR the guidance of medical practitioners the National Birth Control Association has decided to publish from time to time a "white list" of contraceptives which, according to present evidence, may be recommended as harmless and satisfactory. All the products in the list can be obtained from any good chemist and are sold to clinics and doctors at special prices; they have all passed the special tests approved by the Association's medical sub-committee. One such list, dated October 1937, is now available, and the Association intends to emend and supplement it as further clinical evidence accumulates.

## Dr. Wilhelm Weinberg

THE Bureau of Human Heredity announces with regret the death, in his seventy-fifth year, of Sanitaetsrat Doktor Wilhelm Weinberg, a prominent statistician, of Tuebingen, Germany. The Bureau was much indebted to Dr. Weinberg for the gift of most of his published works.

C. B. S. H.

## Mongols

AMONG sixty consecutive cases of mongols referred to an Association the following facts were noted. The number in family was as follows: 11 (2), 10 (2), 8 (3), 7 (5), 6 (4), 5 (6), 4 (6), 3 (16), 2 (10), 1 (6). In forty-five of the sixty cases the mongol was the youngest child.

The age, where known, of the mother was 48 (1), 44 (2), 42 (2), 41 (1), 40 (2), 39 (1), 38 (1). The interval, where known, between the mongol and the next elder child was 13 years (1), 12 years (1), 11 years (1), 10 years (2), 9 years (2), 7 years (1), 6 years (1), 4 years (1).

There was, as would be expected, little defect recorded in the rest of the family; there was one case of a mongol aunt, one of an imbecile brother, and in one case there was a history of epilepsy; the mongol had double cataract, a sister was a cretin and another deaf and undeveloped.

In two cases were frights recorded, in one of which the fright was given by a mongol boy in the neighbourhood. E. CORRY.

## Record of a Defective Family

THIS Middlesex family contains five children, only one of whom is bright and normal. The others are as follows:

A. (b. 1920). An imbecile girl with congenital hip disease, which necessitated two years in an invalid carriage. She is also pigeon-chested, with a slight squint, and has had rickets.

B. (b. 1923). An imbecile boy with paralysis in both legs, improved by numerous operations.

C. (b. 1928). An idiot girl, formerly epileptic.

D. (b. 1930). An imbecile girl.

The father is a labourer earning an average of about £3. The mother is not unintelligent, but a very casual and slatternly woman who keeps her bare home in a dirty and untidy state.

Nothing is known of the father's family, but the mother once stated that her family had been poor scholars, and that two of her brothers had been cripples. E. CORRY.

## Work of the Propaganda Department

THE autumn campaign has been a very busy one, and in co-operation with the Central Council for Health Education the Society's exhibit has been shown at six health week exhibitions. The exhibit is always accompanied by a demonstrator who gives short talks to groups of people throughout the day. The estimated attendance of the exhibitions this autumn has been 48,367, so that large numbers of the general public have come in touch with eugenics.

A silent version consisting of two reels of the film *Heredity* has been made, and is called *From Generation to Generation*. The first reel is a simplified and shorter form of the two somewhat complicated reels *Heredity in Animals*, but the second consists of *Heredity in Man* unchanged.

This new film may be shown at all meetings where no money is taken at the door; it has already been shown at four meetings in Cheltenham—i.e. at St. Paul's Training College for Men, at St. Mary's Training College for Women Teachers, at the Gentlemen's College, and at the Public Library and Art Gallery. On each occasion I gave a lecture after the film and answered many questions from the audience. I should be very glad if any Fellows and Members of the *Society* could arrange such meetings in their neighbourhood.

The *Society* is anxious to introduce the sound and silent versions of the film to the senior classes and teachers in schools and colleges all over the country, and will be glad of personal introductions. HILDA POCOCK.

## Burden Mental Research Fund

THE Burden Mental Research Trust, on which are represented the British Medical Association, the Medical Research Council, the Board of Control, and the Board of Education, has appointed a team of medical and psychological research workers to undertake a comprehensive study of the human brain with the object of discovering the causes of mental differences and the principles underlying their inheritance. Among the clinical studies will be included an examination of three to four

thousand schoolchildren—particularly with respect to the resemblances in intelligence between siblings, and the connection between intelligence and family size and between mental and physical health—and the compilation and examination of similar records from one thousand defective patients consecutively admitted to Stoke Park Colony; the studies in morbid anatomy will involve a comparison between large numbers of defective and normal brains in order to determine the significance of physical differences between individual brains. It is proposed to issue an illustrative atlas based on photographs of 120 defective brains, showing photographs of normal brains for comparison.

In every case a full statement of the age, family history, and mental and physical characteristics of the person concerned will be provided.

The investigations will be conducted under the supervision of Professor R. J. A. Berry, director of medical services at Stoke Park Colony.

### Hewitt Sterilization Case

THE announcement in the American Press of the marriage (and the matrimonial difficulties) of Ann Cooper Hewitt has again drawn public attention to the sterilization case in which she was involved in 1936. It will be recalled that Miss Hewitt sued her mother and two medical practitioners for \$500,000 on the ground that without her knowledge or consent these practitioners had sterilized her at Mrs. Hewitt's request. Mrs. Hewitt and the practitioners pleaded that the operation was for Miss Hewitt's welfare, a California State Health Department psychologist having rated her in 1934, when she was 20, as having a mental age of 11. In addition to the civil proceedings initiated by Miss Hewitt, criminal charges were also brought against the mother and the practitioners by the San Francisco police, who held that the assault came within the category of mayhem. This criminal action failed, but the \$500,000 suit is still pending. An interesting account of the issues involved was given by Professor Norman E. Himes in the *EUGENICS REVIEW* of April 1936, page 51.

### Dr. Cecile Booysen

UNDER the signature F. le G. C. there has recently been published a brief memoir and appreciation of the late Dr. Cecile Booysen. Dr. Booysen was the founder of the Goswell Women's Welfare Centre, which has now been renamed The Cecile Booysen Clinic. Copies of the memoir may be obtained from the author, 19C Eagle Street, London, W.C.1., price 6d., post free.

### Population of India

IN his report on the health of India for 1935, Colonel A. J. H. Russell, Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, estimates that by 1941 the population will be over 400 millions. "At no period in the recorded history of Indian vital statistics," he writes, "has the natural increase of population maintained such a high level as in recent years, and, in British India alone up to the middle of 1935, approximately 15 millions were added to the population since the last census was taken in 1931. Assuming that the same rate of increase has occurred in the Indian States, the population in India as a whole has increased since 1931 by 5 per cent., bringing the total estimated number to well over 370 millions. The fact that registration of births is defective only means that the actual population is even higher than this estimate would indicate."

In British India during 1935 the number of births was greater and the number of deaths smaller than in the previous year. The births totalled 9,698,794, an increase of 410,000 on 1934, and the deaths totalled 6,578,711, a decline of 288,000 on the previous year.

About a million and a quarter infants died before they reached the age of one year, and 150,000 women died in or from causes associated with childbirth.

### Obituary

THE Council of the *Society* has learned with great regret of the death, in his sixtieth year, of Dr. H. B. Fantham, Strathcona Professor of Zoology, McGill University, Montreal.

Before going to McGill in 1932, he had been for fifteen years Professor of Zoology at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. At both universities he had built up large and vigorous departments.

Professor Fantham had been for many years a Fellow of the *Eugenics Society*, and was the first President of the Eugenics Society of South Africa. In South Africa, which he represented on the International Federation of Eugenic Organizations, he initiated pioneer researches on problems of human heredity, arousing in this subject considerable interest both in the university and among the general public. He was a highly popular lecturer on eugenics and heredity. He carried with him to Canada his profound interest in problems of race mixture, and in the Department of Zoology was successful in introducing a course on social biology. It was characteristic of the care with which he worked that in his studies of heredity he rejected many of his painstakingly collected pedigrees for lack of some comparatively small detail. None the less he had a large literary output, having published some hundred and fifty papers on his researches. He was an inspiring teacher and much beloved by his students.

### The Galton Dinner

As announced elsewhere in this issue, the Galton Anniversary Dinner will be held at the Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych, W.C.2, on Wednesday, February 16th, at 7.30 p.m., with the President of the *Society*, Lord Horder, in the chair. Professor John Ryle, this year's Galton lecturer, has taken as his subject "Medicine and Eugenics." The vote of thanks to the lecturer will be proposed by Sir Walter Langdon-Brown, who preceded Professor Ryle as Regius Professor of Physic, Cambridge University, and will be seconded by Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard, Regius Professor of Medicine, Oxford University.

To facilitate the task of the organizers, Fellows and Members of the *Society* are earnestly requested to obtain tickets for themselves and their guests as early as possible from the Business Secretary,

*Eugenics Society*, 69 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1.

### Education and Family Size

IN an address on the influence of the cost of education on the size of the family, given at the twenty-sixth Conference of Education Associations, Dr. Grace Leybourne, Research Assistant to the Population Investigation Committee, said that hardly less than £200 was needed on the average to keep a boy at a boarding-school from 13 to 18, and perhaps as much at a preparatory school from 8 to 13. Was the cost of forms of education which were regarded as almost indispensable as a means to distinction in later life responsible for some of our small families? It could hardly be doubted that it was. Professional men who could anticipate not more than £800 or £1,000 a year when their children would be ready for school could not afford to educate families of five or six in this way, and they made certain that they did not have such families. In Dr. Leybourne's view the conclusion was inescapable that some share of the responsibility for the falling birth-rate must be borne by the cost of education.

### Character and Personality

THOSE who have followed the regular abstracts from *Character and Personality* which have been published in these columns, do not need to be reminded of the scope and variety of its contents or of the eminence of its contributors. Under the editorship of Professor Charles Spearman it is now proposed to cover the ground implied in the title more systematically than hitherto. Thus, it has been planned to present comprehensive surveys on such matters as developments in the important psychological schools, significant advances in the treatment of fundamental psychological problems, notable movements in methods of study, psychological or physiological, and valuable contributions to psychological history. Furthermore, it is hoped to obtain information and inspiration from related fields of study, in particular psychiatry, cultural anthropology, heredity, endocrinology, child guidance,



criminology, biography, art, sociology, and economics.

In order to carry through these far-reaching plans it is proposed that the present board of collaborators should be developed into an editorial board whose members would take a more active share in the work. This, however, is not enough. To meet the inevitably greater cost of production it will be essential greatly to increase the number of subscribers. *Character and Personality* is not a profit-making journal, and the price, 7s. 6d. per annum, is very low. Subscriptions may be sent to the publishers, Messrs. George Allen & Unwin Ltd., 40 Museum Street, London, W.C.1, from whom further information may be obtained.

### Family Allowances

WHAT appears to be the first large-scale scheme of family allowances for the employees of an industrial organization, was introduced at the opening of the year by Messrs. Pilkington, an important glass-making firm in the North of England. The allowances will be paid only if there are more than three children in the family, the firm proposing to pay 5s. a week in addition to the ordinary wage for each child of school age beyond that number. The estimated cost of the scheme is in the order of £50,000 a year. It is hoped that when the scheme has been in operation for a sufficient period, Messrs. Pilkington will issue a report on its results, particularly on its influence upon the fecundity of their staff.

### Joint Committee for Voluntary Sterilization

Two conferences organized by the Joint Committee were held towards the end of November, one at Birmingham on the 24th and the other at Leeds on the 29th. At both conferences Dr. C. P. Blacker, General Secretary of the *Eugenics Society*, opened the discussion, and at both the participants were representative of the public, social and professional life of the district. At the Birmingham conference, over which the Right Reverend E. W. Barnes, Bishop of Birmingham, presided, there was opposition from one

speaker, a Roman Catholic member of the medical profession, but the discussion as a whole was very favourable to the purposes of the Joint Committee; at the Leeds conference, under the chairmanship of Professor Maxwell Telling, the discussion was entirely favourable.

The educational value of such conferences extends far beyond the four walls within which they are held. Excellent reports were published not only in the Birmingham and Leeds press but in newspapers and other periodicals throughout the country. For the success of the conferences the Committee is deeply indebted to Dr. Blacker, and to the Bishop of Birmingham and Professor Maxwell Telling.

J. V. QUILLIAM.

### The Pioneer Health Centre

ON October 26th about fifty-three members of the *Society* visited the Pioneer Health Centre, Peckham, at the kind invitation of Dr. Scott Williamson and Dr. Pearse. The material basis of the Centre is a piece of waste ground, not far from the main road, in which stands a large ferro-concrete building of depressing aspect but of good design. It consists of a large swimming bath shut off by glass from a spacious ambulatory on one side of which is a cafeteria, of a gymnasium also open to inspection through glass, of a social and dance room, nursery, laboratory, consulting-rooms, and the rest.

Membership is by family and the subscription is 1s. per family per week. There are a few small extra payments for special activities. On acceptance there is a personal overhaul, various routine pathological examinations, and a "family consultation." A good many physical defects are found among the newly joined and much useful advice is given. There are periodic overhauls, "follow-ups" where needed, and a system of record which includes familial and particular progress both as regards health and the development of widening interests.

The activities of members include swimming, gymnastics, boxing, fencing, badminton, billiards, table tennis, darts, music, dramatic performances, dancing, roller skating, cycling, camping, first aid, dressmaking,

and a discussion circle. There were three things which, I think, struck our members most. First the medical care, second the spaciousness of the bath, and third the gymnasium. Here were small children swinging with ropes and generally amusing themselves without supervision. In the Centre's Annual Report for 1936 occurs the following passage: "We have made the curious discovery that there is no attraction at all in professional instruction, either in gymnastics or in any other forms of physical exercise, whereas the children take advantage of the opportunity to use apparatus in their own way with immense gusto." The average schoolboy hates "gym" and always will, but is ready enough to climb about when unsupervised and so inclined. As the children are left to themselves there is no accident, and they are naturally disinclined to make an effort which is felt to be risky. There was evident no spirit of competition or interference—a circumstance which appears in marked contrast to that attending a brisk afternoon's display in the gibbons' enclosure at the Zoo.

In his preliminary talk Dr. Scott Williamson emphasised the experimental nature of the work of the Centre in collecting information the purpose of which could not at present be defined. He was, he said, struck at the number of ailments and abnormalities. As Dr. Scott Williamson refused to allow the use of the words "good" and "bad" as applied to an individual's choice of action, and would accept no premise whatsoever—both of which are necessary evils in all intelligent conversation—it was not a little difficult to discuss his aims—especially his eugenic aims. The Report of 1936 speaks of non-specialist membership, which is of course ridiculous. The families who like the idea of a cheap club and free vetting and make the venture are

of course of a type in this respect, however much they may otherwise vary. Some families, those perhaps showing the most independence and initiative, tend to break up early, and the thought of "family membership" of anything is repugnant to them. We are not at all sure that, by and large, these families are of better stock.

The Centre certainly provides a good club, makes for general physical development, and gives some health insurance. It is doubtful whether its statistics will be of any general value. The whole effort reminds us of our Chairman's contribution, "Who are the best people?", and our Secretary's remarks in the last number of the REVIEW when he wrote, "Research on a given subject proceeds in two distinct stages. In the first we must define *what* we want to find out; in the second we must devise a concrete scheme of *how* we are going to find it out." The Centre is a fine social effort, but in many respects of doubtful eugenic value. Of course all effort towards health is of eugenic value, and the opportunity here exists for the giving of good eugenic advice, but positive eugenics is surely the study of means to get the best *out of* material. We cannot yet say its aim is to get the *best material* because this we cannot define. We want acceptive minds and trained critical minds (here the Centre fails); we want general good health, some strong men, some soldiers, some "gifted" schoolmasters, some tea tasters, some musicians, and so forth. But we must recognize that it is probably impossible, for reasons too deep and shadowy to discuss here, to breed for too much in one individual. General health, absence of definitely bad potentiality in the germ cells, and some gifts are the most one can expect. Nature will not allow us a quart from a pint pot.

T. R. THOMSON.